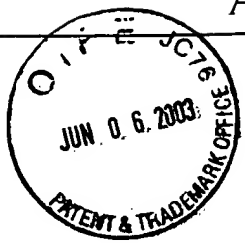


ARNOLD & PORTER

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202.942.5999 Fax

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June 6, 2003

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Application No. 09/051,670
Filed: September 8, 1998
Title: Novel DNAs and Process for Producing Proteins By Using
the Same
Applicants: NAKAGAWA *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16991.009

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. an Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.103 and MPEP 709;
2. an Appointment of Associate Attorneys; and
3. a return postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing matter number 16991.009. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)
Dawn M. Gardner (Reg. Attorney No. 44,118)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

NAKAGAWA *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/051,670

Filed: September 8, 1998

For: Novel DNAs and Process for Producing
Proteins By Using the Same

Art Unit: 1647

Examiner: D. Romeo

Atty. Docket: 16991.009

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by
the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 09 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

Pursuant to an official communication mailed November 6, 2002 regarding suspension of prosecution of the above-referenced application, Applicants respectfully request that a status update of this application be provided to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)
Dawn M. Gardner (Reg. Attorney No. 44,118)

Date: June 6, 2003

ARNOLD & PORTER
555 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
202.942.5000 telephone
202.942.5999 facsimile